

[STATE NORMAL SCHOOL AT WORCESTER.]

# APPRENTICE'S DIARY

FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Friday, *March 25*, 188*7*.

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APPRENTICE.

*Annie E. Fales*

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SCHOOL.

GRADE *II*, *Gage Street*.

TEACHER, *Miss Maggie E. Magoni*

Monday, March 21.

I made up my mind last Wed. that I would try to keep the children in better order the last four days of my apprenticeship in this grade. I had an opportunity this morning and when my teacher left the room for about twenty minutes I think the children behaved as well as if she had been in the room. But I think it was owing to the absence of the most disorderly boy, not any improvement in me. One boy in my division troubles me, by being idle so much. In number, when I give the class a new table to write out on the slates, he will always sit doing nothing while the rest work. I do not know why he does this.

Tuesday, March 22.

I had the children write sentences on their slates today, putting into each sentence one of the new words in the reading lesson, to see if they understood what they meant.

I found that in most cases the children did not know the meanings of these words - "distance, village, fastened, chattering." They knew, or seemed to - what was meant when they found them in the reading lesson, but could not put them into sentences in the right way. Several of the boys had not feet, and asked to sit on a bench in front of the radiator. The teacher allowed them to, but before long the bench tipped over, and made so much disturbance.



Wednesday, March 23.

At the Normal School today.

We learned in one class today that the way to make what we write interesting, is to write about what really interests us most. But we found by experimenting, that it is not easy always to get at just the thing we find most interesting.

One of the teachers read us some old English poetry, of the 16th. and 17th. Centuries, which we enjoyed very much. In another

class, we tried some examples in Mental Arithmetic, for reviewing the four principles, such as thinking of a certain number then going through the processes — adding, dividing &c. — and at last giving the teacher the result and he will tell the no. each thought of.

Thursday, March 24.

### Visited Schools—

Today I visited five different schools; all of them were fourth grade. The work, I think, will be much more interesting to me, than in the lower grades. I heard two Arithmetic lessons, each in long division, and a Geography lesson, on some of the principal cities in Europe. This last lesson was very interesting. The children were bright, and seemed to have a great deal of outside knowledge. I noticed in two of the schools, how low the teachers spoke, but the children obeyed quickly, and were very orderly. In the afternoon I saw a drawing lesson given from models of a square prism, and cylinder. This

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Friday, March 25.

Visited Schools.

The thing that interested me most today in any school, was the reading of stories written by the children in one of the III Grades. The children each took some story — for instance, that of Jack and Jill — and wrote it out, putting in illustrations of their own. They were almost all, very original. I thought, and would have been excellent for observations. In the same school, I saw a great many designs made by the children cut from colored paper, and pasted on stiff paper. These have all of them been done out of school, and, as the teacher said, the children took a great interest in making them.

## Explanations and Remarks.

was the first lesson that had been given from the models, so I had a chance to see how the children took up the subject in the beginning.

Nov. 22 - that we had to send them to their seats. I think one of the boys pushed the bench over purposely, to make the rest laugh.

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Exposition and Memorial